



**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
COMMISSION MEETING  
September 9, 2004**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Morris called the meeting of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACoD) to order at 12:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

<b>Members Present</b>		<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>
Alexander Britton	Diana Lejins	Awet Moges	Dora Jones
Joshua Butler	George Miller		Sherriel Murry
Frances Dawson Harris	David Morris		Katherine Bussi
Flora Easter	William Serhan		
Shauna Hagemann	Shirley Shouse		
Dan Hansch	Chelsea Starr		
Willa Heart			

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF August 12, 2004**

Commissioner Tate made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Commissioner Lejins seconded the motion. Ms. Lejins mentioned the minutes did not reflect personal phone numbers being placed on City business cards. Chairperson Morris requested the correction be reviewed and deferred. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Morris stated that the last couple of months have been very hectic, with the new Commissioners coming on board and outstanding issues that have developed. It is his hope that CACoD will get back on track and continue it's purpose of advising the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on issues affecting the disabled community.

**STAFF REPORT**

Katherine Bussi gave a follow up explanation of Commissioners submitting volunteer hours to staff.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## COMMITTEE REPORTS (3-minute time limit)

Accessibility & Transportation Committee - Commissioner Dawson Harris thanked the committee for appointing her Chairperson. In addition, she stated the committee had reviewed, discussed, and made suggestions for minor changes to their 2004- 2005 Goals and Objectives. Commissioner Dawson Harris reported the committee had reviewed, and asked some questions regarding the citizen's request for an extension of the walkway at Bluff Lane, but no final suggestion had been made.

Employment Committee – Commissioner Hagemann reported that she had been appointed chairperson of the committee. In addition, she reported that the committee discussed how best they could assist the City in working with the Western Law Center on their Mentoring Day in October and asked the Commission's permission to meet with Dora Jones to coordinate this.

Programs and Services Committee – Commissioner Tate reported that the committee has not been able to meet yet. In addition, she reported that the committee has been short one Commissioner due to Awet Moges' absences.

Youth Committee – Commissioner Miller thanked Commissioner Heart for contacting Doreen Wong of the Western Law Center to inquire about CACoD's participation in their Mentoring Day program. In addition, he stated the Youth and Employment committees plan to collaborate on this event if approved by the Commission. Commissioner Britton has been in contact with Judy Elliott, Deputy School Superintendent who stated the applications for the Annual Youth Leadership Award have been distributed to all the schools. We should receive completed applications by mid-October and can then make our selections for possible candidates.

Other Committees – Governor's Committee - Commissioner Morris stated that the Governor's Committee on employment of people with disabilities will not exist as it does today, whether it will exist at all is unclear; it is one of the committees listed to be eliminated due to the State budget situation.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) Ad Hoc Committee – Commissioner Morris stated that the first fully accessible APS at the intersection of Alamitos Avenue, Shoreline Drive and Ocean Boulevard is operational to a degree with minor adjustments to be made in the next couple of weeks.

Ad Hoc Nominating Committee – Commissioner Dawson Harris stated that she had a timeline of activity for distribution that summarizes the committee's actions taken to the various requests made by Commissioner Tate regarding the 2004 CACoD election. In addition, she thanked Commissioners Serhan and Shouse for serving on the committee with her and stated that there was supporting back-up documents available upon request. Commissioner Shouse made a motion to receive and file the timeline. Commissioner Britton seconded the motion; motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Heart motioned for the approval of the exception to the Committee Chairperson's Term Limits to be deferred for further discussion. Commissioner Dawson Harris seconded; item deferred.

Commissioner Heart motioned to approve the Chairperson of the Committees already elected. Commissioner Easter seconded the motion; motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Dawson Harris read the 2004 –2005 Ad Hoc Nominating Committee's Investigation Report. Commissioner Serhan motioned to receive and file the 2004 – 2005 Ad Hoc Nominating Committee's Investigation Report. Commissioner Shouse seconded the motion. A discussion ensued regarding the 2004 –2005 Election of Officers including all events from May 13, 2004 through September 9, 2004. All were in favor of receiving and filing the report.

Commissioner Dawson Harris motioned to have the City Attorney's Office investigate Commissioner's Tate claims and declarations that her "original nomination form is missing". Commissioner Shouse seconded the motion. Commissioner Tate stated that she did not leave the August 12, 2004, meeting saying that any form was missing. Chairperson Morris suggested the item be deferred until after the next three items on the agenda, all were in agreement; item deferred.

Chairperson Morris stated there would be a re-election of 2004 –2005 Officers by open ballot. Chairperson Morris stated that the previous election was declared null and void due to the use of secret ballots. In addition, he stated that the current Commission is holding the new election and that the new officers will take their Office on October 14, 2004. Chairperson Morris turned over the meeting to Mike Mais, Assistant City Attorney who explained that the Brown Act is very clear on this issue; there can be no secret ballots. Commissioner Morris explained to expedite the process Sherriel Murry would act as the scribe. She would write down the name of the person, who accepted their nomination for office, then the Commission would vote by a show of hands for each office, and the person with the most votes would win the election. Mike Mais stated that legally that process would work.

The Commission voted for new officers. Chairperson Morris opened the nominations for Chairperson. Commissioner Easter made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Commissioner Morris was nominated for Chairperson and won the election. Chairperson Morris opened the nomination for Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Easter made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Hansch seconded the motion. Commissioners Heart and Miller were nominated for Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Heart won the election. Chairperson Morris opened the nominations for Secretary. Commissioner Serhan made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Hansch seconded the motion. Commissioner Dawson Harris was nominated for Secretary and won the election. The election results were the same as the election held in May.

Commissioner Starr made a motion to have CACoD participate in Western Law's Mentoring Day. Commissioner Dawson Harris seconded the motion. All were in favor of CACoD's participation in Western Law's Mentoring Day. Chairperson Morris advised that both the Youth and Employment Committee would pursue this project and they would coordinate it through Dora Jones' office.

Mike Mais gave a short overview of the Ralph M. Brown Act. The premise of the Brown Act is, any body that is created by local or state legislature is required to comply with the Brown Act, everything must be open, above board and done in public. He passed out handouts that would cover most issues of the Act that could be expected in a Commission of this size. In addition, he explained when the Brown Act applies.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Morris adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.